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# Stones River story triggers strong childhood memories

By THOMAS H. FISHER

I read the recent article by Mike West titled "Hell's Half Acre" First Monument" with great personal interest. Hazen's Monument on the Stones River National Battlefield has touched my life in several ways.

I was born in 1940 and was raised in Murfreesboro. My father, Tom W. Fisher, was the superintendent of the old Carnation Milk Co. plant from 1937-1953. The old factory building still stands and presently is used by a lumber company.

My father sometimes took the family for Sunday afternoon drives which occasionally ended up at the Hazen Monument where I, as a small boy, could run around while the family sat under the trees. I was fascinated by the graves there and tried hard to understand the battle which took place. I'm afraid I could not really understand what a "Federal" was or who General Rosecrans was.

As I grew older, I used to play cowboys on some deep ditches located near Motel Murfreesboro. I always thought they looked man-made. It was years before local historians pointed out that those ditches were part of the large Federal storage depot known as Fortress Rosecrans.

I graduated from MTSU in 1962 and married Linda Cantrell, whose family has deep roots in Warren County, near Rock Island. She mentioned to me on more than one occasion that some of her ancestors fought at Stones River. In later years when I became interested in family genealogy, I was able to document her family's traditions and stories.

My wife has two great-grandfathers and a great-uncle who fought at Stones River. One grandfather, Hardin S. Lane, died there in the assault on Hazen's position.

With a little research in Nashville and piecing together family folklore, I determined that "Hard" Lane, as he was known, left McMinnville in November 1862 and joined the 16th Tennessee Infantry Regiment, Company D, commanded by Capt. Lamberth. Col. John H. Savage organized the regiment from men in Warren County.

Hard Lane soon learned that his first fight, only a few weeks after joining, would be at Stones River. On Dec. 31, 1862, he was positioned with the 16th Tennessee on the right flank of Donelson's Brigade just north of where the old Nashville Pike crosses under the railroad. Their assignment was to move north and northwest toward the so-called Round Forest.

The fight was fierce, and eventually the 16th was thrown back, primarily because of the valiant stand by Hazen's men. Pvt. Hard Lane was killed this day by a "bomb shell." He was not alone; out of 377 men entering battle, only 150 survived the day.

On Jan. 1, 1863 there was a lull in the fighting. Two of Hard's friends, James Martin and James Gribble, asked permission of Col. Savage to go into the battlefield and look for their friend. They later swore in an affidavit that they found his body and positively identified him.

Hard Lane was in the service less than two months. He left a 26-year-old pregnant wife, Emaline, and three children ages 6, 4, and 2. A traditional family story is that she traveled by

## Guest Column

wagon to Murfreesboro to find his body and return it for burial, but she was unsuccessful. We assume he is buried at Evergreen Cemetery in the mass grave for Confederate soldiers killed at Stones River.

In March 1863, Emaline Lane went to McMinnville and swore an affidavit attesting that she was the destitute wife of a soldier killed in action at Stones River. She requested his back pay and clothing allowances.

The Confederate government got the names mixed up and replied that "H.S. Lane" did not appear on the rolls of the 16th Tennessee. After another exchange of letters and delays, the war ended, and Emaline was not paid anything.

In 1905, the Tennessee government authorized certain payments to widows of Confederate veterans. She filed for a pension and subsequently received one.

My family attended the First United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro for many years. As a young boy, I was always interested in the kindly, retired minister who assisted with certain ceremonies. His name was Rev. Oliver Lane, and he was the grandson of Hardin S. Lane. "Uncle Oliver," as he was known, later performed the marriage ceremony when his niece and I were married.

As for the other two men, Samuel Cantrell served at the western end of the battle at Stones River with the 20th Tennessee Infantry Regiment. He would survive this battle and stay with his unit until he was captured at the battle of Five Forks, Va., two months before the end of the war. He was imprisoned at Point Lookout, Md., and released at the end of the war. In later years, he steadfastly refused to apply for any sort of Confederate service pension.

Lawson Cantrell, Sam's brother, served with Hardin Lane in the 16th Tennessee but in a different company. Lawson's finger was shot off at Stones River. By July 1863, he had been discharged from the service for medical reasons.

Col. Savage's brother was killed at Stones River. The colonel later resigned his commission in a dispute over promotions and assignments.

As a further coincidence in life, I recently learned that a distant relative (through marriage) on my side of the family also was at Stones River. He was a soldier with the 24th Wisconsin Infantry, and he died of "camp fever" Jan. 25, 1863.

Last August, I returned to Murfreesboro on vacation and wandered around the battlefield with my wife and some friends. I looked at the busy highway, the businesses, and houses and tried to imagine what it was like that cold day in December when Pvt. Hardin S. Lane died. I'm afraid I could only shake my head in wonder. I cannot conceive of what they went through.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A Tallahassee, Fla., native, Thomas H. Fisher is a former Murfreesboro resident... in addition to being an interesting writer.

## Long-running joke gets a little old

Writes a woman of retirement age: "My son always sends me a card of congratulations on his birthday. It has been a long-running joke. But I'm getting a little sick of it..."

Statisticians calculate that if a 100-store chain...

L. M. Boyd

"Yogurt and buttermilk are almost identical in nutrients," writes a client. "So why are you willing to pay about four times as much for yogurt?"

They set about building the foundation of the refurbished United States. For the first time, it is clear Nations is indispensable to us all, President Carlos Andres Perez unanimous sentiment at an meeting of the heads of the 15 na Security Council.

Long more a utopian vision, the only infrequently in its 46-year hi the hopes of mankind.

Thirty-one years ago, the la Nikita Khrushchev banged his sh anger. "We've seen nothing like John Major, the British prime mi president of the Council. Discord by cooperation.

With the end of the Cold W commitment by the United Stat cut their nuclear arsenals rou Security Council is beginning a fr the peace through an application called "preventive diplomacy."

That means stopping crises f wars by supplying troops to a force for the purpose of maintain peace and security.

"Today the threat of global nu distant than ever before in the n said, in addressing the primary tistic fresh start.

Leader of the only nation to us in war, Bush said he would se ground on slashing stockpiles. Russian President Boris N. Yelts Saturday.

Yeltsin, speaking just before indication he was eager to cooper together, the two states are capa principle of minimum defense a of existence."

The United States and Rus partners, but allies, he said.

But lurking behind all the oerences to the maladies that stan new world order even if, some genie can be stuffed back into the b

Taking their turns around the table, they evoked the darker side c

Belgian Prime Minister Wilfr of the plagues of hunger, disea pollution.

King Hassan of Morocco, eye-cr robe and hood, deplored the gro that besets many nations and ga growth.

He singled out Palestinian Ar world's peoples as unjustly deprive

Yeltsin spoke of "all of us we enormous burden of mistrust."

And Bush referred to the sec and singled out Iraqi President for what has become a familiar nation.

But the overwhelming sentin hope, and on the day of this e meeting it enveloped the Unite shining light.

## Berry's World

